Computerisation of ration cards

2321. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken the process of computerisation of ration cards;

(b) if so, the details of the process;

(c) the details of the State Governments which have done the computerisation in this area;

(d) whether information relating to ration cards issued, is available on Central and States' websites; and

(e) if so, which States have made the same available?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) In order to make delivery of services efficient under TPDS and to assess replicability of use of smart cards, Government has approved in December, 2008 implementation of a pilot scheme on smart cards based TPDS in Chandigarh and Haryana. Under it, eligible BPL families would be issued smart cards in place of existing ration cards. They will have bio-metric features of the family members, based on which verification of genuineness of the BPL families will take place and thereafter only the essential commodities would be issued to them from the fair price shops. For commencing implementation of this scheme, work is in progress by the implementing agencies *i.e.* Government of Haryana, Chandigarh UT Administration and National Informatics Centre.

In addition as per available information, 9 State/UT Governments namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Pondicherry have reported to have initiated computerization of TPDS operations from their own resources.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Non-distribution of foodgrains to BPL families

†2322. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrains to be distributed through Public Distribution System to the persons living below poverty line are yet to be distributed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the foodgrains are being sold illegally in the black market; and

(c) whether Government is considering to improve Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made to all the States/UTs as per the applicable norms. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.